

LIVING STONES

1 PETER 1:17-19

AN IMPARTIAL FATHER

BACKGROUND

1 PETER

AUTHOR: Peter, Jesus' disciple

LOCATION: "Babylon," which was probably Rome

DATE: A.D. 64, during Roman Emperor Nero's reign

PURPOSE: To encourage faithful Christian living in the midst of suffering

RECIPIENTS: Christians scattered throughout five Roman provinces of Asia Minor

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
1 PETER 1:17-19

I. An impartial Father _____ the door to everyone who would call on Him.

CALL ON HIM TO BE _____ !

II. An impartial Father will _____ our deeds when we see Him face-to-face.

LEAVE THE FUTILE WAYS FOR THE ETERNAL _____ .

III. An impartial Father can _____ everyone for godly living during exile.

LIVE LIKE YOU'VE BEEN _____ .

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11-15

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

HOME GROUP

Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read 1 Peter 1:17-19. Is it surprising to you that Peter would write letters to the church? Why do you think he did so?
2. What reminders did Peter give the believers in verses 17-21? What do these reminders imply about the audience he was writing to? Why are these reminders important for believers today?
3. This letter was written only a couple of years before scholars believe Peter was executed. What connection do you see between this timing, Peter's location and the subject of his letter?
4. Can a person say they're a Christian and behave any way they want? Why or why not?
5. Have you ever believed that God is partial to certain people, for good or bad? How did this sermon help your understanding of His impartiality?
6. Peter speaks of judgment in verse 17. How does this talk of God judging your work affect you? Consider also 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.
7. How do Christians live as exiles today? What should our attitude be as exiles?
8. How can you "live like you've been redeemed" in everyday life?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Study the subject of "fear" as it appears in the Bible. Include in your study the attitude a Christian *should* have (*conduct yourselves with fear*, v. 17) and the fear we need *not* have (e.g., *perfect love casts out fear*, 1 John 4:18).

HELPFUL Quotes

This epistle could be understood as a handbook written for ambassadors to a hostile foreign land. The author, knowing persecution would arise, carefully prescribed conduct designed to bring honor to the One they represented. The purpose then of 1 Peter was to encourage Christians to face persecution so that the true grace of Jesus Christ would be evidenced in them (5:12). ... Those who read 1 Peter are encouraged to lift their eyes from present problems and trials and behold the vistas provided by an eternal perspective. For though believers may for a while suffer grief in trials, they wait for an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. - *Roger Raymer*

Peter wants believers to live their lives in holiness (1:13-16), and to conduct their walk in fear (1:17). He also wants them to focus their minds on Christ (1:18-21). Our focus must be on Christ because our primary battlefield is the mind. The enemy has his sights set on our minds. If he can get us to focus on something other than the hope we have in Jesus Christ, he will have won the battle; everything else will be just claiming the spoils of war. - *Charles Swindoll*

Each of us will give an account of his works, and each will receive the appropriate reward. This is a 'family judgment,' the Father dealing with His beloved children. The Greek word translated *judgeth* [*krinonta*] carries the meaning 'to judge in order to find something good.' - *Warren Wiersbe*

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!